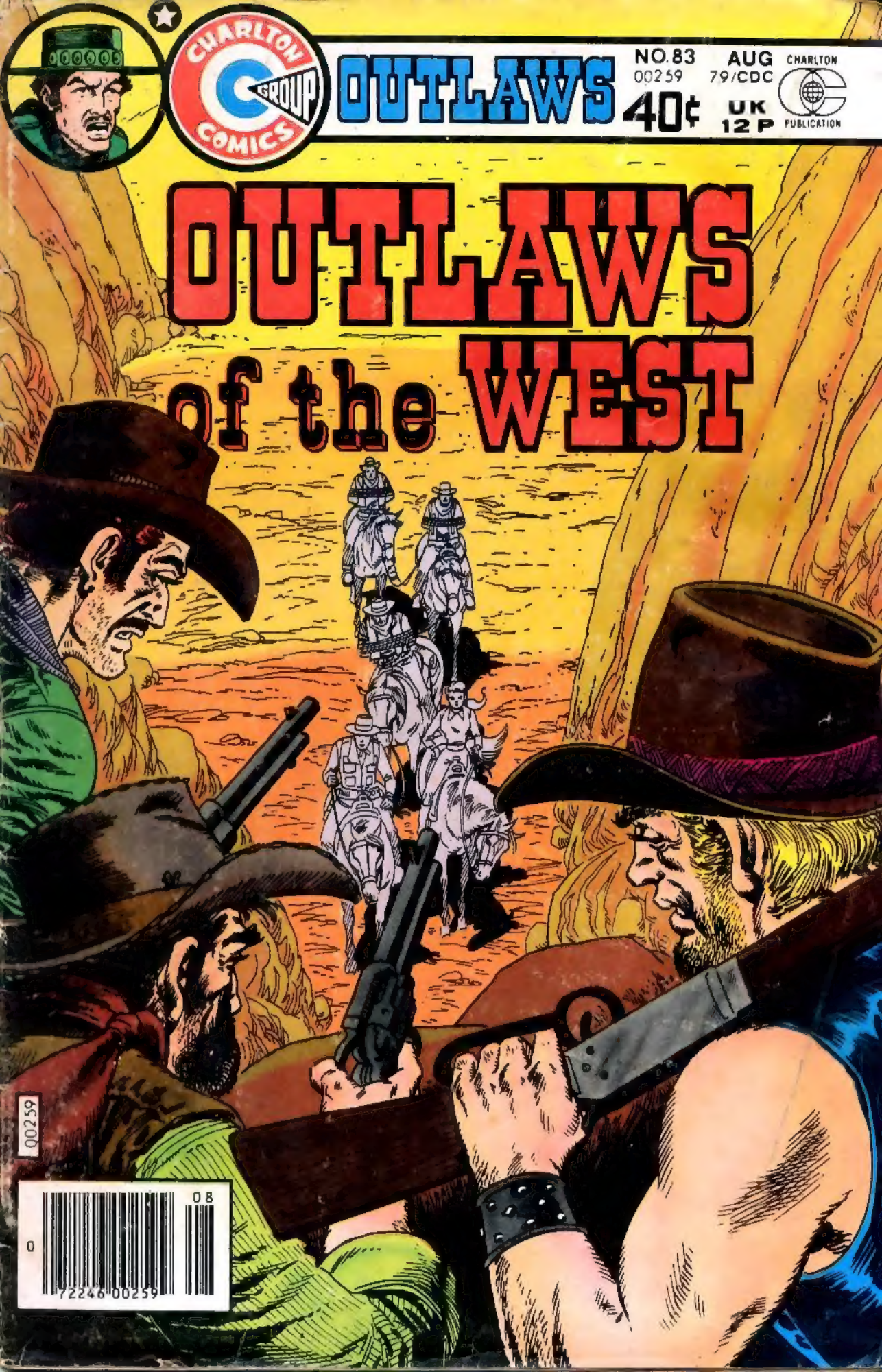
CHARLTON GROUP COMICS
OUTLAWS
NO.83
00259
AUG
79/CDC
40¢
UK
12 P
CHARLTON
PUBLICATION
OUTLAWS
of the WEST
00259
0 72246 00259 08

THE RIVER WAS A RAGING, SWOLLEN MASS OF WATER/ THE WHOLE COUNTRY WAS SODDEN, WIND AND STORM SWEPT, THE NIGHT THAT TEXAS RANGER, JIM HARDIN, RODE INTO THE STAGE STATION, HIS GUNS BOOMING ACCOMPANIMENT TO THE ELEMENTS...

the STORM

BAM!

BAM!

BAM!

STAGE CO. STATION NO. 3

5501

IT'S A RANGER/ GIT OUT FAST!

TOO DARK IN THIS RAIN TO CATCH 'EM...

SHORE WAS GLAD TO SEE YUH COME RANGER/ THOSE HOMBRES MEANT BUSINESS/ WERE WAITIN' TO HOLD UP THE STAGE/

OUTLAWS OF THE WEST

nomscans

OUTLAWS OF THE WEST Vol. 4, No. 83, August, 1979, Published bimonthly by CHARLTON PUBLICATIONS, INC. at Charlton Building, Division St., Derby, Conn. 06418. John Santangelo Jr., Publisher. George R. Wildman, Executive Editor. © Copyright 1979 Charlton Publications, Inc. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A. The stories, characters and incidents portrayed in this periodical are entirely fictitious, and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended. This magazine has been produced and sold subject to the restrictions that it shall only be resold at retail as published and at full cover price. It is a violation of these stipulations for this magazine to be offered for sale by any vendor in a mutilated condition, or at less than full cover price. National Advertising Representatives: Dilo, 114 E. 32nd St., New York, N.Y. 10016 (212-686-9050) Reprinted Material Copyright 1959

HERE SHE COMES NOW!

WHOOOOAAAA! CAL, GIT OUT A CHANGE OF HOSSES IN A HURRY!

AIN'T NO USE, JACK, THE BRIDGE IS OUT OVER THE RIVER, CARRIED AWAY BY THE STORM!

CAP ROSS IS INSIDE THE COACH! TELL HIM! WE'LL TAKE THIS BOX INSIDE!

HOLD ON! WE'LL TAKE THAT BOX!

NO! YUH DON'T...

IN THAT MOMENT, RANGER, JIM HARDIN, STEPPED OUT OF THE STATION, HIS GUNS HAMMERING THEIR PROTEST AT THE HOLDUP!

PULL OUT, MEN, IT'S GONE SOUR!

BAM!

BAM!

BAM!

THEY SPURRED AWAY INTO THE DARKNESS AS QUICKLY AS THEY HAD APPEARED!

BLAM!

BAM!

MR. HARDIN, THIS HERE IS CAP ROSS, BIGGEST RANCHER WEST OF THE TURKEY RIVER!

GLAD TO KNOW YUH, RANGER!

YOU MUST BE CARRYIN' PLENTY DINERO IN THAT BOX THE WAY THE OUTLAWS'VE BEEN AFTER IT!

JACK AND THE SHOTGUN GUARD EXCHANGED A STRANGE GLANCE! THEN, AS THOUGH AN UNSPOKEN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN COME TO, JACK SPOKE!

RECKON YOU FOLKS MIGHT AS WELL KNOW! AIN'T NO MONEY AT ALL IN THE BOX! IT'S FILLED WITH PLAUGE SERUM! THE TOWN OF TURKEY BEND AN' THE NESTERS WEST OF THE RIVER HAVE ALL BEEN HIT BY THE PLAGUE!

THIS SERUM HAS GOT TO GIT ACROSS THE RIVER!

WITH THE BRIDGE OUT, AIN'T NO WAY OVER! 'CEPT OF COURSE BY THE FLATBOAT MOORED BELOW, BUT THAT'D BE SUICIDE IN THAT RIVER TONIGHT!

I'VE SEEN WHAT THE PLAGUE CAN DO! I'LL TRY TO GIT IT ACROSS BY BOAT!

I'LL GO WITH YOU!

NO TIME TO WASTE! THE RIVER'S GETTIN' WORSE EVERY MINUTE! LET'S GO!

MAN, YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT! AIN'T NOTHIN' KIN LIVE IN THAT RIVER TONIGHT!

PULL ON THE OVERHEAD ROPE! IT'S ATTACHED TO THE OTHER SHORE! IF WE LOSE THAT ROPE, WE'RE THROUGH!

STAND BACK! I'M THROWIN' THIS BOX IN-TO THE RIVER! IT'S WHAT I CAME ALONG FOR!

ARE YOU LOCO, ROSS?

I KNOW WHAT I'M DO-ING! I SENT MEN TO WAIT AT THE STATION AN' HOLD UP THE STAGE, BUT YOU CHASED 'EM! LET THE NESTERS HAVE THE PLAGUE! THEY CAME IN AN' TOOK MY LAND... LAND I FOUGHT FOR! IT'LL SERVE 'EM RIGHT!

YOU HEART-LESS COYOTE ...GIVE ME THAT!

I WARNED YOU NOT TO INTER-FERE!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

UGGHH!

ACTING FASTER THAN HE EVER HAD IN HIS LIFE, JIM HARDIN, FLUNG HIMSELF AFTER THE BOX AND...

PUTTING THE BOX SAFELY IN THE CABIN

HELP...I..I'LL DROWN!

NO...I'M DROWNING...HELP!

YOU DON'T DESERVE IT, BUT I'M GONNA SAVE YOU FOR A JURY!

I'M HALF DROWNED MYSELF, BUT AT LEAST I ONLY HAVE THIS RIVER TO FIGHT NOW, INSTEAD OF A LOCO SIDEWINDER!

AFTER EAGER HANDS HAD HELPED THEM TO SHORE...

HERE, TAKE THIS RATTLER UP TO THE JAIL, SHERIFF! I'LL BE UP AS SOON AS I GET ME SOME DRY CLOTHES!

RANGER I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, BUT YOU SURE SAVED THIS TOWN...AND THIS FELLOW'S LIFE!

END

THEY ALL HATED SMILEY REAM... THEY DETESTED THE MEANNESS, THE CASUAL CRUELTY AND THAT AWFUL SENSELESS GRIN HE WORE WHEN HE STOOD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET WITH HIS SMOKING COLT LOOKING AT HIS LATEST VICTIM—THE VICTIM, THIS LAST TIME, BEING CAL MENNEN!

THE HAPPY GUNSLINGER

NEXT TIME I SEE YUH, MISTER, YUH BETTER TIP YORE HAT! I JES' MADE A RULE THIS MORNIN'— ALL GENTS IN THIS TOWN TIP THEIR HATS WHEN I COME BY!

CAL! SMILEY REAM, YOU BELONG IN PRISON—YOU SHOULD BE SHUT AWAY FROM DECENT PEOPLE! CAL, ARE YOU BADLY HURT?

4719

HE NICKED ME, SIS, THAT'S ALL! IS HE THE GENT WHO SHOT JOHNNY?

SMILEY REAM SHOT JOHNNY ALL RIGHT—NOW HE'S SHOT YOU TOO! I'M SORRY I WROTE AND ASKED YOU TO COME, CAL!

I'M GLAD YOU DID, ELLEN! I'VE SEEN SNAKES IN MY TIME, BUT SIDEWINDERS ARE NICE COMPARED TO HIM!

THE NEWLY ARRIVED CASUALTY WENT WITH HIS SISTER TO HER HOME—HE TALKED TO JOHNNY DISKIN, HER HUSBAND, WHILE HIS ARM WAS FIXED!

OKAY, JOHNNY, TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED! DID YUH HAVE A GUNFIGHT WITH SMILEY REAM?

NOPE! I KNOW SMILEY—I DISLIKE HIM, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE! BUT I DIDN'T CROSS 'IM OR ANYTHING! HE JUST MET ME OUT IN FRONT OF THIS HOUSE AN' DREW! I DIDN'T EVEN GET MY GUN OUT!

IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! WHY DID HE SHOOT YOU—THEN TURN AROUND AND SHOOT ME? HE MUST HAVE HAD A REASON, JOHNNIE!

THEY HAD NO ANSWER—JOHNNY DISKIN WAS IN BED FOR WEEKS, IT LOOKED LIKE... HE NEEDED HELP RIGHT AWAY... HE GOT IT TWO DAYS LATER!

I HAD HALF THE CLAIM STAKED OUT FOR FILIN' WHEN SMILEY SHOT ME DOWN, CAL! FINISH IT FOR ME, WILL YUH?

DON'T TAKE ANY CHANCES, CAL! THAT LAND ISN'T WORTH D'YIN' FOR! EVEN IF THE RAILROAD *DOES* INTEND BUILDING LOADING PENS OUT THERE, WHICH I DOUBT!

CAL MENNEN TOOK HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW'S HORSE AND HEADED FOR THE HOMESTEAD LAND JOHNNY HAD CHOSEN TO STAKE OUT...

SMILEY REAM WATCHED ME LEAVE TOWN! HE'S UP TO SOMETHIN'...

REAM'S GUN-CRAZY, EVERYONE THINKS! BUT I LEARNED A FEW THINGS — EVERY TIME HE USES THAT COLT, THE BANKER PROFITS SOME WAY!

THERE HE IS — SMILEY BEAT ME HERE! IF I DO THIS RIGHT, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVE HE'S NOT SO CRAZY AFTER ALL!

REAM WAS THERE STAKING THE LAND FOR HIMSELF!

TURN AROUND AN' GO BACK TO YORE SISTER'S HOUSE BEFORE Y'CATCH SOME MORE COLT POISON!

YOU WON'T SHOOT ME AGAIN, SMILEY! FOLKS WOULD HUNT YUH DOWN IF YUH USED A GUN ON ME TWICE!

THAT'S A FACT, DUDE! Y'KINDA GOT ME UP A STUMP, AIN'T YUH?

HOW MUCH DOES GEORGE LOVETT AT THE BANK PAY YUH, SMILEY? DO YUH GET SO MUCH A VICTIM OR DOES HE PAY YUH A REG'LAR SALARY EACH WEEK?

I GET ONE HUNDRED A... THAT DOES IT, MENNEN! YOU GET IT NOW!

HOLD IT, SMILEY! THIS POPGUN THROWS A REGULAR 45 SLUG!

WE'RE RIDIN' IN T'SEE GEORGE LOVETT AT THE BANK, SMILEY! FOLKS IN THIS TOWN WILL BE INTERESTED IN WHAT I FOUND OUT!

OKAY, MISTER— IT'LL BE YOUR FUNERAL!

THEY RODE IN THAT WAY—MENNEN BEHIND SMILEY WITH THE DEADLY DERRINGER! AND SMILEY LAUGHED ALL THE WAY!

WAIT'LL MR. LOVETT SEES YUH, TINHORN! WAIT'LL Y'WALK IN THERE HOLDIN' A GUN ON ME! HA HA HA!

THEY WATCHED SMILEY ENTER TOWN...FOLKS WONDERED ABOUT CAL MENNEN RIDING BEHIND HIM. THEY WATCHED THEM ENTER THE BANK...

LOVETT, MY NAME IS MENNEN! JOHNNY DISKIN'S A FRIEND OF MINE! LET'S TALK THIS OVER IN YORE OFFICE!

ALL RIGHT, MENNEN... FOLLOW ME, SMILEY!

HE GOT A DERRINGER, BOSS! GOT THE DROP ON ME!

SMILEY WON'T FORGET THIS, MENNEN! WHY DON'T YOU BEAT IT—YOU CAN'T COME OUT ON TOP!

MEBBE I WILL—AFTER Y'WRITE DOWN HOW YUH KEEP SMILEY ON YORE PAY-ROLL T'HELP YUH TAKE WHAT YUH WANT AROUND HERE! LIKE JOHNNY'S HOMESTEAD FOR INSTANCE! BETTER WRITE IT ALL DOWN!

LOVETT GAVE SMILEY A NOD—AND THE GRINNING GUNMAN WENT FOR IRON!

DON'T TRY IT, SMILEY!

I'LL WRITE WHATEVER YOU WANT, MENNEN! HE WON'T GET FAR WITH THE PAPER, WILL HE, SMILEY?

NOT UNLESS HE PULLS THE TRIGGER RIGHT NOW, BOSS! AN' HE WON'T DO THAT!

CAL MENNEN BACKED OUT OF THE BANK..HE THRUST THE PAPER AT A BOY JUST OUTSIDE THE DOOR — HE KNEW THERE WASN'T MUCH TIME!

SMILEY'S AFTER YUH, AIN'T HE, MISTER?

TAKE THIS TO JOHN DISKIN'S HOUSE — TELL YORE DAD T'GO THERE TOO!

ALL RIGHT, TINHORN — THIS IS THE SHOWDOWN!

ANYTIME YUH'RE READY, SMILEY! ANY TIME...

SMILEY GOT OFF THE FIRST SHOT... CAL MENNEN GOT OFF THE LAST!

KRAK

KRAK

THE SMILING GUNHAWK'S SHOULDER WAS SMASHED — AND SMILEY WAS SENT UP FOR TRIAL! THE BANKER, LOVETT, WENT ALONG...

SMILEY WON'T SMILE FOR A LONG, LONG TIME! HE TALKED PLENTY ABOUT LOVETT'S SCHEMES ONCE WE TOOK AWAY THE GUNS!

END

RED FOGARTY'S FRIENDS

RED FOGARTY WAS FEARED WHEREVER HE RODE IN THE BADLANDS--HIS GUNS BOUGHT HIM FEAR--HIS STOLEN GOLD BOUGHT HIM SHELTER--AND IT WAS FOGARTY'S BRAG THAT THE LAW WOULD NEVER TOUCH HIM WHILE HE WAS IN THE HILLS AMONG HIS FRIENDS!

FOGARTY'S COMIN'!

FOGARTY AND HIS STOLEN MONEY!

BANK

WANTED

SHORE!

FOGARTY AND HIS BUSH-WHACKER'S GUNS!

5654

YES, FOGARTY WAS FEARED... HE KNEW THAT! AND HE WAS HATED... BUT THE OUTLAW HAD NO IDEA HOW MUCH!

HOWDY, JED! TELL YER 'WOMAN TUH RUSTLE SOME GRUB! HIDE THIS NAG AND SADDLE UP YER FAVORITE HORSE! I'M ON THE RUN AGAIN!

1

LISTEN, RED, WE DON'T WANT YOUR MONEY... LEAVE US ALONE! RIDE ON, WE'RE LAW-'ABIDIN' PEOPLE!

I DON'T LIKE THAT TALK, JED! DO LIKE I SAID ...PRONTO!

YUH KNOW I PAY WELL, SODBUSTER! GIT GOIN'!

I CAN'T ARGUE I RECKON, FOGARTY!

ZING!

BAM!

HERE...BUY THE WOMAN A NEW DRESS AN' TELL HER TUH HURRY THAT GRUB! NEXT TIME, I WON'T AIM TO MISS, SO DON'T ARGUE!

FOGARTY RODE ON...SURE THAT HIS MONEY AND GUNS HAD ENSLAVED JED BARKLEY FOREVER!

OH, JED, I WAS AFRAID HE'D KILL YOU! HE'S A HORRIBLE MAN!

I'VE TAKEN HIS MONEY FOR THE LAST TIME, MARY! I'M THROUGH JUMPIN' WHEN RED FOGARTY HOLLERS!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

FOGARTY HAD OTHER FRIENDS...MEN LIKE THE LONER THEY CALLED COMANCHE CHARLIE!

CHARLIE, I NEED HELP! I'LL PAY GOOD!

HELLO, RED! I'M YORE FRIEND, YOU KNOW THAT!

THERE'S A POSSE HUNTIN' YUH RIGHT NOW! THEY'RE YONDER ON THAT CLIFF! THEY PROB'LY SEEN YUH COME IN...YUH'D BETTER HEAD FOR SULPHER SPRINGS!

TH-THANKS, CHARLIE!

SEE YUH SOON, CHARLIE!

SULPHUR SPRINGS, THE LAST WATER ON THE EDGE OF THE DESERT, WAS AHEAD OF FOGARTY WHEN HE SAW THE DUST CLOUD RISING BEHIND HIM...

THEY'RE AFTER ME ...CHARLIE WAS RIGHT!

THEY WON'T GET ME... THEY'RE IN TROUBLE RIGHT NOW! BECAUSE I'M GONNA POISON SULPHUR SPRINGS AS SOON AS I GET THE WATER I NEED!

WHAT TH!?!

POISON

POISON

IT CAN'T BE POI-SONED! NO ONE WOULD DO A THING LIKE THAT!

IT...IT SMELLS FUNNY! I...I CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE DRINKIN' IT!

I'VE SEEN CRITTERS DRINK POI-SONED WATER ...THEY DIED IN AGONY!

NO! GIT AWAY FROM THAT WATER! IT'S TOO LATE ...HE'LL DIE FOR SURE!

RED FOGARTY WAS DESPER-ATE... FEAR WAS IN HIM. BURNING FEAR! AND HE KNEW HE HAD TO RUN FROM THE LAWMEN ON HIS TRAIL!

I'LL BE OKAY ...I'VE GOT MONEY, I'VE GOT MY COLTS! I CAN'T LOSE!

BEHIND HIM, A LONG WAY BACK, THERE WAS A LAWMAN ON THE TRAIL.

FOGARTY WAS HERE, EH? HE'S GOT A LONG LEAD ON ME ...I'LL NEVER CATCH HIM WITHOUT HELP!

I'LL RIDE WITH YUH, MISTER! I WANT TO SEE FOGARTY GET WHAT HE DESERVES!

I DIDN'T EXPECT HELP FROM YOU PEOPLE IN THE HILLS! I HEARD RED PAID PLENTY TO HIS FRIENDS FOR PROTECTION!

RED FOGARTY DOESN'T HAVE A FRIEND IN THE WORLD... EXCEPT THE MONEY HE STEALS! AND THAT WON'T SAVE HIM THIS TIME!

COMANCHE CHARLIE WAS WAITING WHEN THEY ARRIVED!

HE'S HALF A DAY AHEAD, MARSHAL, BUT WE'VE GOT HIM TRAPPED! LET'S GO!

HE'LL THINK A POSSE IS CLOSE BEHIND HIM RIGHT NOW! TWO COMANCHE BRAVES ARE TRAILIN' HIM...ON MY ORDERS! THEY WON'T FORCE A SHOWDOWN... THEY'LL JUST KEEP HIM IN SIGHT!

I HAD A SIGN ERECTED AT SULPHUR SPRINGS...IT SAYS POISON! WE'LL STOP THERE FOR WATER!

FOGARTY LEFT HIS HORSE...BUT HE STILL MAY GET AWAY! HE WON'T LEAVE MUCH OF A TRACK IN THIS ROCKY COUNTRY!

POISO

THE OUTLAW STAGGERED ON, ALMOST OUT OF HIS HEAD, BUT HE USED HIS ANIMAL CUNNING TO HIDE HIS TRAIL...

I.. I'LL FIND WATER! I'LL GET AWAY!

YUH THINK YUH GOT ME? I'VE GOTTEN AWAY BEFORE--I WILL AGAIN! I'LL BUY HELP, YOU'LL SEE!

BUT THERE WAS NO ONE NEAR THAT UNDER-STOOD THE VALUE OF HIS STOLEN MONEY! THE WOLVES WERE THERE ...IT WASN'T GOLD THAT DREW THEM!

NOR WERE THE VULTURES WAITING FOR FINANCIAL GAIN!

I'M LOSIN' THE CASH! IT...IT MUST HAVE BEEN FALLIN' OUT ALL THE TIME!

IT'S MY DOUGH NOW! I'M RICH...RICH! I'M NOT GIVIN' ANY OF IT UP!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT TWO PAGES

JED BARKLEY, COMANCHE CHARLIE AND THE LAWMAN WERE GETTING NEAR COMANCHE CHARLIE'S INDIAN BRAVES WERE THERE TO POINT THE WAY!

I DON'T SEE HOW THEY TRACKED HIM THROUGH THIS ROCK!

I'VE GOT A HUNCH HOW THEY DID IT! COME ON... LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH!

I SEE HIM! YOU MEN, YOU STAY BACK! IT'S MY JOB FROM HERE ON!

FOGARTY SAW HIM COMING...HE DID HIS BEST TO GET THE LAWMAN!

DROP IT, FOGARTY! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

BLAM!

BLAM!

BAM!...

I'M CAUGHT...BUT I'LL GET AWAY! I'VE GOT FRIENDS, I HAVE!

YOU'RE WRONG...THE WORLD HATES YOU, FOGARTY! YOUR "FRIENDS" LED ME TO YOU! EVEN YOUR MONEY BETRAYED YOU...

SEE! FOGARTY? THE MONEY YOU STOLE WAS SCATTERED ALONG YOUR TRAIL! THE INDIANS WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TRACK YOU EXCEPT FOR THAT!

END

THERE WASN'T ANY LAW IN WEST TEXAS WHEN RAY MOULTRIE ARRIVED WITH A WORN COLT AND A DRIVING AMBITION TO BUILD UP A RANCH! THE OUTLAWS AND INDIANS WERE DRIVEN OFF... HIS BROKEN M BRAND PROSPERED! THEN, THE LAW ARRIVED...WITH IT CAME TODD REAM, ARMED WITH FAST GUNS, A SLICK LAWYER, AND NO CONSCIENCE! THAT COMBINATION STARTED MOULTRIE DOWN...

THE OUTLAW TRAIL

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN, SHERIFF! TODD REAM PAID **YOU** OFF TOO! I'LL GO TO THE GALLOWS FOR IT, BUT I'M STILL GLAD I FOUGHT AS LONG AS I COULD!

DON'T TALK THAT WAY, MOULTRIE! YUH BROKE THE LAW--YUH GOTTA PAY JUST LIKE ANYONE ELSE!

JACK KELLER

5328

WHEN TODD REAM HIT WEST TEXAS, HIS PLANS WERE ALREADY FORMED! HE EVEN HAD THE TERRITORY HE INTENDED TO RULE MARKED OFF!

TEXAS

GET TO WORK, DYKES! RIG UP DUPLICATE DEEDS TO ALL THIS LAND! GET THE DOLTS INTO COURT--TIE THEM UP LEGALLY! I'LL DO THE REST!

MEN OUT HERE SHOOT FIRST AND TALK LATER, MISTER REAM! IT'LL BE RISKY!

TEXAS

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANT! IF THEY DO, I'LL LET THE LAW DO MY WORK FOR ME!

RAN MOULTRIE HAD SIX THOUSAND SCRAWNY TEXAS LONGHORNS WEARING HIS BRAND BY THEN! HE WAS BUILDING A NEW BARN WHEN THE FIRST HINT OF TROUBLE ARRIVED...

HEY, JICK, DON'T RUIN A GOOD HOSS! WHAT'S WRONG?

YUH GOT TROUBLE, RAY! A GENT IN TOWN CLAIMS THIS LAND!

THAT'S NOTHIN' TUH RAISE A LATHER OVER, JICK! I ALREADY OWN THIS RANCH FREE AN' CLEAR!

MEBBE. BUT A TIN-HORN NAMED TODD REAM GOT A PAPER SHOWIN' *HE* OWNS IT! YUH BETTER GET YORE DEED AN' HIGHTAIL IT TUH TOWN!

LATER THAT SAME DAY...

COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

THESE DEEDS ARE THE REAL ONES! YUH SIGNED 'EM YORESELF, FELIX! THIS FOUR-FLUSHER'S NOTHIN' BUT A BLASTED CROOK!

DON'T SAY THAT, RAY! WE'VE GOT A SHERIFF AND A JUDGE TO SETTLE THAT!

DEED

YUH'RE RIGHT, FELIX! I FEEL LIKE WHIPPIN' THE DUDE RIGHT OUTA TEXAS, BUT I WON'T! I'LL DO EVERYTHIN' LEGAL-LIKE!

THAT'S BEIN' SENSIBLE, RAY! LET'S GO SEE JUDGE RUNNELS!

BUT TODD REAM HAD GOTTEN THERE FIRST! JUDGE RUNNELS PRIDED HIMSELF ON HAVING AN OPEN MIND... TODD REAM PLAYED ON THAT PRIDE...

MISTER, I DISPENSE JUSTICE, FRIENDSHIP DOESN'T COUNT A BIT IN MY COURT!

AT THAT MOMENT...

JUDGE I'VE GOT MY DEEDS HERE! WHO'S THIS TINHORN THINK HE'S FOOLIN' WITH HIS FORGED PAPERS? HE OUGHTA BE LOCKED UP!

WHOA, MOULTRIE! HOLD YOUR TONGUE AND MIND YOUR MANNERS HERE...

...MR. REAM HAD THE DECENCY TO PRESENT HIS CASE QUIETLY -- HE REALIZED THAT *I'LL* DECIDE WHAT'S RIGHT! I'LL HEAR THIS CASE IN COURT! MEANWHILE, MOULTRIE, THE COURT WILL SEE TO IT THAT YOU DON'T SELL OFF YOUR LAND OR CATTLE UNTIL THE *REAL* OWNER IS DETERMINED!

YOU'RE IN WEST TEXAS, TINHORN! IF YUH'LL STEP OUTSIDE, I'LL SHOW YUH HOW WE FIGGER OUT WHO'S SWINDLIN' WHO!

I'LL DEFEND MYSELF IF I MUST, MOULTRIE! BUT THERE'S A SHERIFF IN THIS COUNTRY -- REMEMBER THAT! GOOD AFTERNOON, YOUR HONOR!

EVERYONE IN TOWN KNEW MOULTRIE WAS OUT TO GET EVEN WITH THE SLICK STRANGER! THE SHERIFF, JOHNNY DANVERS, HEARD ABOUT IT FAST...

DON'T GO GUNNIN' FOR 'IM, RAY! I'M WARNIN' YUH!

HE'S TRYIN' TUH SLICKER ME OUTA MY LAND!

WE GOT LAW HERE NOW, RAY! THE RIGHT MAN COMES OUT ON TOP! STAY AWAY FROM REAM!

I LIKED YUH BETTER WHEN YUH WERE OUTA WORK, DANVERS! STAY AWAY FROM ME FROM NOW ON!

BUT THEY SAW RAY SITTING AT A REAR TABLE THAT NIGHT...

RAY'S GONNA BUST THIS TOWN WIDE OPEN ANY MINUTE!

YEAH, IF I WAS THAT DUDE, I'D HEAD FER THE HILLS, PRONTO!

THEY ALL SAW HIM LEAVE, STEPPING INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE UNLIGHTED STREET... AND DISAPPEAR! THEN, THEY HEARD THE SHOT...

HEAR THET? RECKON MOULTRIE FIXED THE DUDE THAT TIME!

BLAM!

WHERE'S THE...? OH, SHERIFF! I DEMAND YOU ARREST MOULTRIE! LOOK AT THIS! HE SHOT AT ME WITHOUT GIVING ME A CHANCE TO DRAW!

I WARNED 'IM -- NOW HE'LL HAVE TUH TAKE HIS MEDICINE!

SHERIFF, JOHNNY DANVERS, GOT A POSSE TOGETHER! THEY COMBED THE TOWN WITH NO LUCK! BY NOON, THE NEXT DAY, THE LAW-MAN ADMITTED HE WAS STUMPED...

HE'S NOT AT HIS RANCH... HE AIN'T IN TOWN EITHER!

IF HE DOESN'T SHOW UP IN COURT TO PLEAD HIS CASE AGAINST MR. REAM, I'LL HAVE TO RULE AGAINST HIM!

IF HE DOES, I'LL DEMAND HIS ARREST FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER!

THE WAY THE JUDGE SAW IT, HE DID THE ONLY THING HE COULD DO... HE RULED THAT RAY MOULTRIE'S DEEDS WERE VOID... REAM WAS AWARDED THE RANCH...

I DID IT, BOSS! TRICKING THAT JUDGE AND JURY WAS SIMPLE!

YEAH, BUT MOULTRIE WON'T GIVE UP! WATCH YOURSELF, DYKES, YOUR LIFE ISN'T WORTH A PLUGGED NICKEL FROM NOW ON!

RAY MOULTRIE WAS IN TOWN THAT DAY! HE HEARD THE VERDICT IN A FRIEND'S HOUSE...

IT'S ME, RAY! EASE THAT HAMMER DOWN. I HEARD YUH COCK IT!

HE WON, DIDN'T HE, JOHNNY?

YEAH! I DUNNO WHAT TUH DO, JOHNNY! DO *YOU* KNOW?

IT LOOKS TUH ME LIKE REAM'S GONNA GET YUH SENT TUH YUMA PRISON BEFORE HE'S THROUGH! HE'S TELLIN' FOLKS IN TOWN YUH'LL BE BACK TUH GET HIM OR HIS LAWYER!

I GET IT.. THAT LAWYER BETTER STAY OUTA DARK ALLEYS! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I *CAN* DO, JOHNNY. LISTEN...

EVERYONE EXPECTED RAY MOULTRIE TO DO WHAT ANY TEXAN WOULD DO! TO GET REVENGE WITH THE BUSINESS END OF A COLT! AND THEY WEREN'T DISAPPOINTED...

MOULTRIE SHOT REAM'S LAWYER! I KNEW IT'D HAPPEN!

BLAM!

GET THE SHERIFF! MOULTRIE SHOT HIM DOWN IN COLD BLOOD!

WE CAN'T BE SURE RAY MOULTRIE BUSHWHACKED 'IM, REAM!

LET... ME SAY...

SHUT UP, DYKES! SAVE YOUR STRENGTH! SHERIFF, I DEMAND THAT YOU ARREST MOULTRIE!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

RAY MOULTRIE WASN'T FAR AWAY -- HE HEARD EVERY WORD...

I OUGHTA END THIS RIGHT NOW! THAT DUDE IS OUTSMARTIN' US ALL!

MOULTRIE MADE HIS FIRST MOVE THEN -- HE HEADED FOR REAM'S OFFICE...

HE'S SURE WELL HEELED -- THIS MONEY'S *BRAND NEW!* IT'S STILL BANDED THE WAY IT CAME FROM THE GOVERNMENT BANK! HERE'S THE DEEDS -- I'LL JUST TAKE 'EM ALONG!

HOLD IT, MOULTRIE! JUST DON'T MOVE A FINGER...

HE WON'T MISS THIS CHANCE! REAM'LL START THROWIN' LEAD ANY MINUTE!

BAM!

BLAM!

WAIT UP, MOULTRIE! *DON'T RUN!*

MOULTRIE DIDN'T WAIT... HE HEADED WEST FOR THE BADLANDS...

I'M AN OUTLAW FOR SURE NOW... BUT I HAD TO RUN OR REAM WOULD'VE SHOT ME!

PUT UP YORE HANDS, MOULTRIE! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

THE SHERIFF BROUGHT MOULTRIE BACK TO BE TRIED...

WELL, JOHNNY, YUH MUST BE PROUD OF YORE JOB NOW!

STOP IT, RAY! I DID WHAT I HAD TUH DO! LET'S GO-- THE JUDGE IS WAITIN'!

TODD REAM AND HIS LAWYER FIGURED THEY HAD MOULTRIE ALL SEWED UP! THEY TESTIFIED... THEN THE STATE CALLED UP JOHN DANVERS, THE SHERIFF...

I KNEW REAM WAS A CROOK RIGHT ALONG! RAY MOULTRIE WAS HIDING IN MY HOUSE WHEN REAM SAYS HE SAW HIM SHOOT THAT CROOKED LAWYER!

ARE YOU SURE, SHERIFF?

SURE, WE'VE GOT PROOF! HIM AN' THE LAWYER FORGED THE DEEDS! FELIX, THE TOWN CLERK, WILL PROVE THAT!

YOU COW-TOWN HEROES WON'T BEAT ME!

REAM WAS ARROGANT... HE DIDN'T THINK MOULTRIE WOULD DARE COME AT HIM WITHOUT A GUN! HE DIDN'T KNOW HIS TEXANS...

NICE, RAY!

WELL, I RECKON YUH DID YORE BEST, JUDGE, BUT HE HAD YUH FOOLED!

THE COURTS CAN BE WRONG, MISTER! THIS TIME, I MADE A MISTAKE! BUT WRONGS ARE ALWAYS RIGHTED SOONER OR LATER!

END